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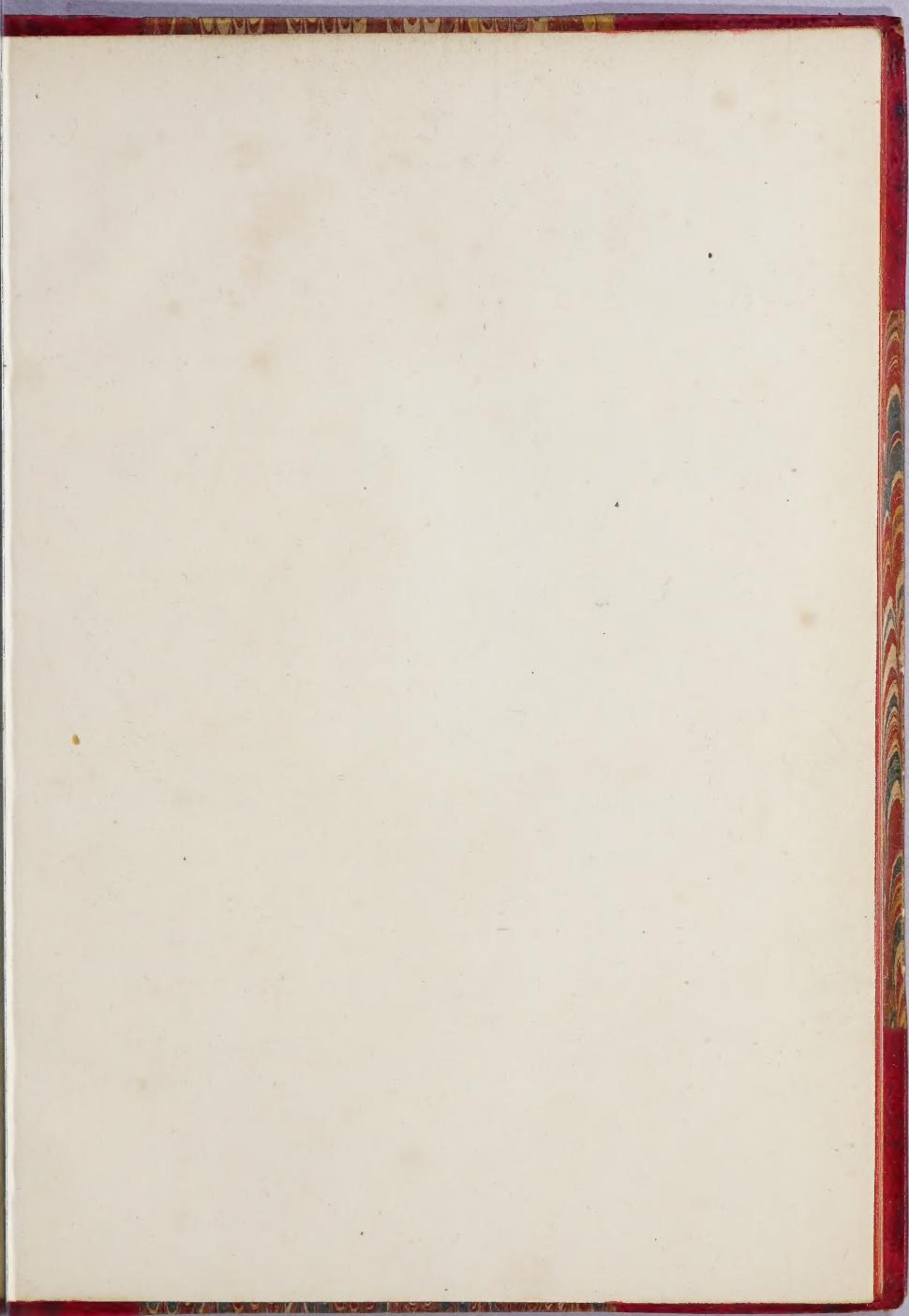
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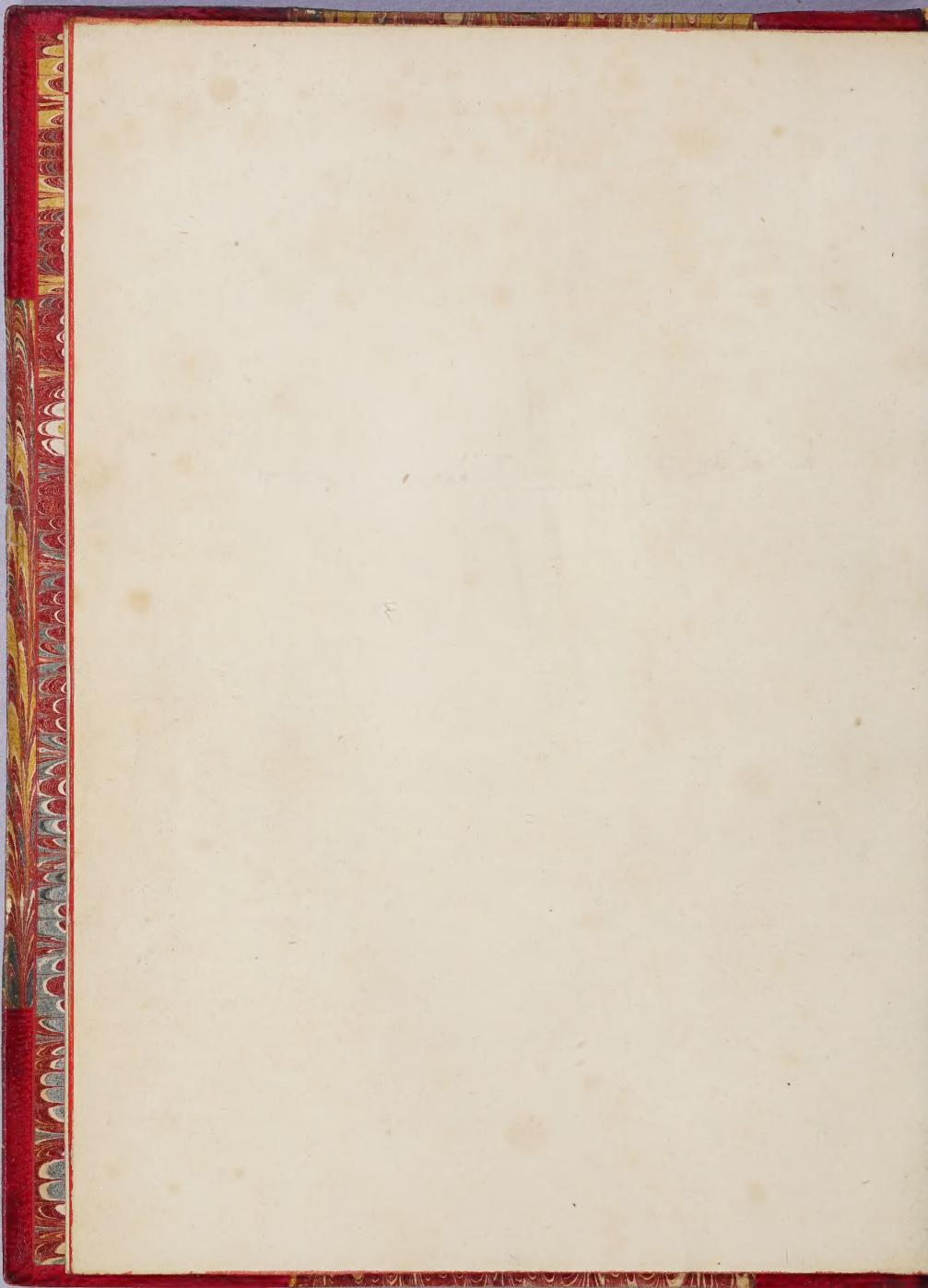
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Glasgow Dec. 15- 1885

Wouldn't I like to have a few words
with the man who bound this tract!!





LETTER
FROM THE *✓ 1698*
COMMISSION
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
Church of Scotland
TO THE
Honourable Council and Inhabitants
of the Scots Colony of *Caledonia*
in *America.*

Dated at Glasgow, July 21, 1699.

G L A S G O W.
Printed by Robert Sanders, One of His Majesties Printers 1699.

RPJCB

Much Honoured, and dearly belov-
ed in our Lord and Saviour Jesu
Christ, Grace, Mercy and Peace
be multiplied unto you.

THo' in the wise and powerful providence of GOD, who bath
determines the times before appointed, and the Bounds of every
man's Habitation, you are now separated from us by a vast
Ocean; yet you are not disjoined from our Hearts; nor
shall thele Waters ever quench, nor Time, nor Distance wear out our
Love to you: *We cease not to make mention of you in our Prayers to God* Acts 1.8. Eph. 1.18.

for your Preservation, and for the Prosperity of your Souls; nor to
offer Him our humblest Adorations, and thankful Praises, for the won-
ders of His Kindness, and Mercy to you (whereof we have received
most refreshing Accounts,) and to us in you, whom we justly con-
sider as a worthy part of our selves, both as we are a Civil and a Reli-
gious Body; and pray we may have reason always so to do.

We acknowledge the special merciful hand of our gracious good
God, hitherto most signally and visibly appearing in the first proposal,
in the Management, and in the Conduct of this Great, and Generous
Undertaking, in which you are now so far, and happily engaged;
That in a poor Nation, altogether unacquainted with the carrying on
of such great Designes, so many Persons of all Ranks and Qualities
should Unite together in such a Contrivance: That they got the op-
portunity of having a Prince, and Estates of Parliament ready to give
Life by Law to the same: That they who were generally Strangers
to Trade, should have been induced to venture so considerable a
Stock, to the surprizing of those Abroad, and themselves at Home;
when they could not but lay their Account with many Difficulties,
and much Opposition: That these noble Patriots should continue so
firm, and willing to contribute their several Proportions of Means,
and endeavours to set it so fairly on Foot, notwithstanding of several
unforeseen Disappointments, and Oppositions: That these Disap-

pointments and Oppositions, which seemed to look towards it with no promising aspect, have fallen out rather unto its furtherance: That a Land known to all the World to be a fit Seat for such an Undertaking, should have lyen hitherto neglected by our more potent Neighbours: That you the first noble Adventurers have been led out of your Native Country under Divine Direction to this Land, which the Lord had espesed and reserved for you, and to which he hath born you, as on Eagles wings, through the Dangers of the great Deep, and as it were aloft over amazing Difficulties, and hath piloted you safely in to that Void, but commodious Dwelling, whilst you mean while, like Abraham, (in a manner) knew not whither you went: That He hath kept you, in so long, doubtful, and hazardous a Voyage: That so few, comparatively, have died by the way, or since your Arrival; All this is the doing of the Lord, and his marvelous doing, and calls for the humblest, and heartiest Praises, and most devoted Services from you, and from us.

We have in part heard of the Providences that have gone over you, since your Landing, and have rejoiced to hear of the good hand of our Gracious God continued upon you for Good, in your acceptableness to the Natives: That He whose the Earth is and the fulness thereof, even the most High, who divided to the Nations their Inheritance, and separated the Sons of Adam, hath made room for you with the free consent, and good liking of these Natives, the Natural Lords of the Land; and in the Preservations you have been under, and the Successes you have obtain'd, whilst envious Neighbours, who covet more than they are able to possess, Joining Land to Land, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the Earth, are seeking to molest you, and turn your Possessions into Esek and Sitaah: That God hath hitherto maintain'd your Rehoboth, and, we trust, shall maintain it, and make you fruitful in the Land.

Amidst the refreshful Relations we had of your happy Successes, it was most afflicting to us to hear of the Death of our dear Brethren Mr. James and Mr. Scoe your two Ministers, whom we sent along with you, for the Comfort and Edification of your Souls; and we find you have been sensibly affected with the same: He is the Sovereign Lord who was pleased to mingle that bitter Water among your Wine, that, amidst the many signal Smiles of Providence bestow'd on you, you met with this frowning Cloud, to allay both your, and our Joy; But who may say to the Almighty, What doest Thou? Let us adore the only wise God in this Dispensation, as calling you to an higher valuing of Gospel-Ordinances, and, by the want of them, to more enlarged

desires

desires after them, and a more diligent Improvement of them when restored; and as calling us to a more vigorous and tender concern in providing for your Souls Food and spiritual Benefit.

To have and improve the glorious Gospel in its Ministry and Ordinances, is the happiness of a Place and People: Where these are, Glory dwells in that Land, and without them, there is no Glory: Let ^{1 Sam. 4.} Men Dwellings upon Earth be Fertile and Barren, Wealthy or Poor, Peaceful or Perilous; this compensates the Inconveniences of the one, and is the richest Advantage of the other: How sweet is the Life, and secure is the Protection of these who dwel *under the Wings of the God* ^{Ruth 2.} of Israel, and the warm Influences of his Ordinances in their Life and Power!

The Honourable Court of Directors, by their Applications to the last General Assembly, and to us, have been careful to represent your Desires to have more Ministers sent you, and very forward in contributing what was proper for them, to accomplish the same: And we hope we may say, it hath been the good Hand of God in answering their Endeavours, and ours, that we herewith send you Four of our Brethren, Ministers of the Gospel of Christ, and our Fellow-Workers unto the Kingdom of God; Men who have a great Zeal for you, and have very cheerfully hazarded their Lives, in addicting themselves unto this Ministry, whom we beseech you to receive, and submit your selves unto in the Lord: Tho' we might use much boldness in Christ with you, as our Spiritual Children, in Recommending them as our Brethren; yet it is under an higher and more august Character they come unto you, and under which you are to receive them, as the Servants of the Living God, as the Embassadors of Christ, as Men ready to spend and be spent in the Service of your Faith and Joy, and in communicating this Gospel to the Gentiles in the Regions beyond you: Do you therefore esteem them very highly in Love for their Works sake, entertain their Message, encourage their Endeavours, and strengthen their Hands: We trust they shall, through Grace, make full Proof of their Ministry among you; Do you also fulfill your Obedience to them in the Lord, as Men that Watch for your Souls, and must give an Account; That you may be their Hope and Joy, their Glory and Crown of rejoicing, in the Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, at his Coming; and they may Labour amongst you, and give up their Account of you in that Day with Joy and not with Grief; for that is unprofitable for you.

We have fully Instructed them to set up a Christian Discipline, and Order in your Church; for God is not the Author of Confusion but of ^{1 Cor. 14.} Order,

Order and Peace in all the Churches of the Saints ; and in this they will stand in need of some of you to be joined with themselves, as Elders and Office-Bearers in the Church, Overseers of the Manners of the People, and Assistants in the Exercise of Discipline, and Government: And we hope such of you as shall be orderly Called hereunto, will reckon it your Duty to embrace the same, and discharge that Office with Christian Meekness, Prudence, and Faithfulness: And we are confident of the Zeal and Love of all of you in every thing wherein they may need your Assistance: Nor will the Church of Scotland be wanting in what may be requisite from time to time, towards the maintaining the Gospel among you, and diffusing its Glorious Light and Influence upon the Neighbouring Gentiles ; that they to whom Christ was not heretofore spoken of, may see ; and they that have not heard may consider and understand.

15. 21. And now Honour'd Friends and Dear Country-men, whilst you are far from us, our Bowels earn towards you, and we are zealous over you with a godly zealousie, lest any among you forget the Obligations of their Birth, Sacramental Entrance into, and Education in a Christian Church, their Vows in the day of their Distresses or Fears, the marvelous loving Kindness of the Lord in your Preservation hitherto, and Establishment ; and what Duty and Service these wonderful Providences you have met with and still are under do require ; lest there should be any Achan in your Camp to trouble your Israel, and kindle the displeasure of your God, provoking Him to turn against you to do you Evil, after he hath done you Good. And we hope you will consider what we say as proceeding from the warmest Affections of your tender loving Mother the Church of Scotland.

Remember then in the first Place, That God is the Sovereign Lord, and absolute Proprietor of all the Earth; it's He who hath appointed a Place for you, and carried you safely to it. He it is, even the Lord of Hosts, who fights your Battles against those who would disturb your Settlement: From Him you derive your Original Right and your Security ; acknowledge Him then as your Great Land-Lord with Sincere and Upright Souls: All you enjoy is His, all you expect is from Him; Pay therefore unto Him due Homage for all: Serve Him who is your God, and the God of your Fathers, and the God of this Nation to which you belong ; and cleave to Him with upright Hearts;

15. 2. For the Lord is with you, while ye be with Him ; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you ; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you.

27. You are not left like the blind Heathen to grope after Him, as in the Dark ; He hath been, and is nigh unto you, and your Eyes have been

been opened (even all of you, at least, by Christian Education) to behold him, not only in his wondrous Works, which all Men behold; but in the most wonderful of all his Works, in his Glorious Gospel: By this you have been taught that *God is a Spirit*, and you must *Wor- John 4*
ship him in Spirit and in Truth: *You shall not do so unto the Lord your God*, *Deut. i*
as the *Heathen* do unto their Gods, who stupidly, and blockishly Wor-*ship* their blockish Idols; but you must remember *the Manner of the 2 Kings*
God of the Land from whence you came, and serve him after his own *27.*
Manner revealed in his Gospel. There you have been instructed that in all Places his Eye is upon you, and he observes your Hearts and *Ways* in *Caledonia* no less than in *Scotland*: *The Wings of the Morn* *Psal. i*
ing, and the uttermost Parts of the Sea hide not from him: All are his Territories and under his Dominion: 'Tis there you Learn that in every Nation and in every Place, *he that feareth God, and worketh* *Acts. i*
Righteousness, that lifteth up holy Hands without Wrath, or Doubting, is *1 Tim.*
accepted of him; but that the Workers of Iniquity can no where escape his Notice, nor get out of the Reach of his Justice, but by Flying in to Christ, and taking Refuge in that blessed Hope which the Gospel sets before them.

We beseech you to Ponder these Things with all due Seriousness; Let them be ever present to your Minds, with a Practical Influence, and Operation upon your Spirits, and your whole Deportment; that you Reverence, and Serve, Trust and Adore, Love and Obey that God whose you are, and whose are all your Wayes: To him you owe your present Settlement, and your future Hopes; See and enjoy his Bounty and Kindness in all: Labour to know and discern, upon *Gospel Evidence*, that he bestoweth outward Blessings upon you from his Love in Christ: This will make *your Caledonia* to be a Land of Promise, and a Pledge of that better Inheritance reserved in Heaven for you, where all the Gold and Riches of the Earth, the Things most Valued by Men, heap'd together, do make but a faint Metaphor for the Pavement of that most Glorious City: And after all the Acquisitions of this World, what is a Man Profited if he lose his own Soul?

Let such as are yet Strangers to Christ, repent of all their Sins committed in *Scotland*, or since their Arrival in their New Dwellings, and consider with Astonishment, with Gratitude, with relenting Sorrow and Shame, how many hundreds of Leagues they have been carried safe, through the Vast Abyss, when there was but the thickness of a Plank between them and Death, and consequently between them and Hell; How near they have bordered upon the confines of Eternity;

and how dreadful it will be at last, if the Waves and Billows of Divine Wrath shall go over their Souls for ever. This is the Doom that every Sinner must undergo by himself, if it be not taken off by his Surety; and such as Fly not to the Gospel-Sanctuary, and Refuge, their Sin will surely find them out, wherever they go.

We do most earnestly Intreat and Obtest you the Honourable and Worthy Persons in whose Hands the Government is Lodged, that you not only be shining Patterns your Selves, in all Sobriety, Holiness and Virtue; But that, with the outmost Diligence, and vigilant Care, you procure, that the Deportment and Behaviour of all under your Authority and Influence, be such as becometh the Gospel; by Commanding every one to do their Duty, by enacting strick and wholesome Laws, and Executing those Laws impartially, and speedily; That no Wickedness be Countenanced, or in the least connived at; For why should you bring Wrath upon your selves, and the Land, and provoke the holy God to blast all your Undertakings? And why should you Forfeit his Blessing and Favour promised to Righteous Rulers, and make your Selves Partakers of other Mens Sins? For whatever is committed thro' your Forbearance, and Remissness in Government, is justly Chargeable on you: Every Man is Guilty of that Sin which he Reproves not, which he does not Testifie against, which he can, but neglects to hinder in another; But most of all, such as are Rulers of others, and must give an Account of them to God, as well as of themselves. *Thou shalt not hate thy Brother in thy Heart, thou shalt in any ways rebuke thy Neighbour, and not suffer Sin upon him:* And in the Margin it reads, *That those bear not Sin for him:* This is a Law given unto all; But the peculiar End of Magistracy is, to be a Terror unto Evil-doers, and for the Praise of them that do Well; To set their Eyes of Favour upon the Faithful of the Land; and to cut off all Wicked-doers from the City of the Lord.

17. There is yet a special Obligation upon you, in the Planting and Erecting of a New Colony, to take Care that Religion and Virtue be planted and thrive in it. Owe you not this return to God, who hath brought you thither, and who preserves and prospers you? Owe you it not to your Selves, least you Forfeit his merciful Kindness, and turn it to bitter Displeasure? Owe you it not to the Nation you are come from; to the Gospel you have Received, and Profest, and to the People you are come among; that they receive not Scandal, and ground of Offence against Christianity, from the ungodly Lives of Professed Christians? Have you not Advantages, beyond the Government of your Native Land, or any other of a long continuance,

where

where there are so many Corruptions, and rooted Habits of Vice, among the People to be eradicated? Your Common-Wealth is in its Infancy; you have in your Hand the first Forming of it; your People yet but few, in Comparison, and their Hearts, we trust, yet tender, under the sense of Divine Goodness, as well as the Apprehension of yet impendent Dangers; and so more easily formed into Obedience and Virtue. Are ye not all perswaded, that, as *Righteousness exalteth a Nation, and Sin is the Reproach of any People*; So it must be verified in a very ipecial and eminent Manner upon you, That there is a Just and Righteous God, who will call every one to a Reckoning, both for their Personal and for their Stational Actions? Are you not Convinced that Sobriety, Temperance, Diligence, and all other Moral and Christian Virtues, are truly your Temporal, as well as your Eternal Interest; that your Worldly Affairs cannot thrive without these; That these are true reason of State, by their propitious Influence on Society; and true point of Honour, preventing the Baseness and Infamies of Vice, and rendring the Righteous Man more Excellent than his Neighbour, solidly Brave, Generous, and Great? Have you not before your Eyes fatal Examples of the sad Effects of Immorality, and Debauchednes in other *Colonies*, some of which, instead of Propagating the *Gospel*, are become Nurseries of Scandal to *Infidels*; and have drawn down many formidable Judgements on themselves? Hath not the Dissolution of Manners weak'ned, enervated and broken some of your Neighbours, and rendred them an easie Prey to their Enemies, and the Objects of Divine Vengeance, for their Corruptions, and their Cruelties.

We beseech you, for the Lord's Sake, for your own Souls Sake, and for the Sake of your Country, and of your Posterity, for all that is, and ought to be Sacred, and Dear to Christians, or to Men; that you withstand, and prevent the corrupting of your *Infant Colony*, that you Oppose and Stop the first Appearances or Occasions of Vice amongst your People; and keep them close to the strict Rules of Christian Morality, and a *Gospel* adorning Conversation.

Can any think but the Divine Majesty will resent, and Avenge the Hellish, Unnatural, and Uncreaturly Prophanation of his Dreadful and Holy Name, (a Sin void of Tentation, and full of Horroure) or that ever the *Heathen* will be induced to Adore that God, whom his own Worshippers Trample upon, and Contemn by prophane Swearing? And, whereas Oaths, amongst all Nations, are, and ought to be esteem'd most Sacred, and binding; What Veneration or Credit will they give to the Oaths of those, who Prostitute them, tho' it were

but in trivial Occurrences of Law, (a sad abuse of Judicators in many Countries, which we wish you to avoid) much less, when they are made the miserable Blemishes and Stains of common Discourse.

Will not Drunkenness weaken and brutify your People, and spoil all honest Commerce, and manly Conversation, and prove an inlet to all Mischief? A temperat People are Bold and Adventuring, Wise and Courageous, and attended with many temporal Blessings of an outward, prosperous and flourishing Condition: while Drunkenness besets, dispirits, befools, and wafts a Nation. Let this Vice be curbed among you in its first beginning: And that vile and wretched Custom detested that hath unhappily obtained here, of doing all Busines over a tippling Bottle.

19. Let all Uncleanness be abhorred: Pollute not the Temples of the Holy Ghost, which your Bodies are, Consecrated to him in Christian Baptism; but let every one possess his Vessel in Sanctification and Honour; lest the Place of your Settlement be defiled, and the Land Spue you out, as Canaan did its Inhabitants. And let Interest oblige you to extraordinary Caution, and Watchfulness over the People, with respect to the Natives, in this Matter; lest their Resentment prove a Mean of your Ruine; and, if they should be provoked to avenge Indignities done them, and Injuries of this kind, your fall could not but prove Disgraceful and Unpitied.

Let your Laws strike severely against Idleness, and want of Employment, the Parent of much Mischief and Beggary. Idle People are not only Useless, but Burden som in a Common-wealth, Sowers of Sedition, Discontented, and seldom better exercised, than to find out base and dishonest Ways, whereby they may be maintain'd, in pampering of sloathful Lusts. Let Industry be reputed Honourable, and Diligence in Employment a Character of Virtue, worthy of the highest Respect: Let not the foolish Notion ever get Footing with you, which hath been one great Cause of the Poverty of our Nation at Home, and our Reproach among the Rich, and Trading Nations Abroad, That it is below a Gentleman to follow Trade and Employment.

9. Let not only all Falshood in Words and Actions be severely punished, as what is inconsistent with Humane Society, and Enervats and Destroys Trade; (Faith, and uprightness in Dealing, being the Life and Soul of Commerce, and the best Foundation of Success, for he that walketh uprightly walketh surely) But likewise Discourage and Disgrace Self-seeking, and Narrowness, to the prejudice of the Publick: Let not every one seek his own Things, to the Detriment of his Neighbour, but every one the Good of others, and common Benefit; for

(9)

in the Interest of the Publick, and Prosperity of the Common-wealth, that of each particular Person consists, and is best secured. Especially this is to be look'd to, in the beginning of a Settlement, and Infancy of a Government; where Publick Spiritednes and Self-denial, as they are Gospel-precepts, so, will be found best Principles of Policy; whereas Self-seeking hath ever been the Bane and Ruine of many promising Undertakings.

We cannot forget to Recommend to you Brotherly Love and Concord, and that you Live in Peace and Unity among your Selves; a Thing no less Profitable to you, than Pleasant to the God of Peace, and suitable to the Christian Name: This is our Lord's New Commandment left by Him in Legacy to all his Followers, that they *Love* Joh.13:1 one another: By this ev'n the *Heathen-Nations* shall know that you are the Disciples of the Prince of Peace. We need not tell you what is the Common-remark on these of our Nation, that, however Hasty, Impatient, and Warm they may be in their Debates, while at Home; yet they are Noted as Exemplary to others, in an affectionat Concern in, Sympathy with, and close Adherence to one another, when Abroad. We heartily Wish this may be Verified of you, now when you are far removed from your Native Land, and plac'd amidst envious Neighbours, who are waiting for your Halting, and would make it their Work to Improve, to your Hurt, any Difference that might arise among you.

Let righteous Judgement be Executed betwixt Man and Man; for the Judgement is the Lords. Let it be done Impartially, without vexatious Quibbles or dilatory Forms, and Dispensed either *Gratis*, or upon a publick Salary; so as no Magistrat may Gain by Fynes of his own Imposing; a Practice most hurtful in your Native Land; whereby the Covetous are Tempted to Squeeze and Oppress, and those of a more honest and free Disposition, to become over Slack, lest they should appear gripping for their own Interest. And in general, whatever Scripture or solid Reason hath Discovered to you to be Wrong, or of ill Consequence, in the Customs you have seen at Home or else where, and in the Errors of other Plantations, let these Things be carefully Avoided in your New Government.

The Eyes of God, of Angels and of Men are upon you; The World begins to take Notice of you, as a most hopeful *Colony*, to the Envy of your Enemies, and the Joy of your own Country and Friends. Remember, as you are a People of great Expectation, and of great Advantages; So your Honour and Renown, your Temporal, as well as your Spiritual and Eternal Gain shall be Great, if you improve your

Talent, and Manage the Price put in your Hands, Wisely and Well; but if otherwise, your Reckoning must be Sore and Heavy, and your End Inglorious.

We againg Repeat our most earnest Intreaties unto you, our Dear and Honour'd Friends, that you be very Exact, Vigilant, and Conscientious in Modeling your New Colony to all Virtue, and Godliness; Especially in the first Beginning; which is of vast Importance in all great Undertakings; And a due Care of which will render all after Proceedings Easie, Pleasant, and Succesful; That you bend your outmost Endeavours, both by Example and Law, to make Righteousness, Sobriety, and Godliness appear in the Eyes of others, as they are in themselves, Amiable and Honourable; And all Vice and Impiety, Detestable and Infamous; So as a vicious Person may look like a Monster, and Object of Horrour amongst you: Thus, Religion and Virtue will Incorporat into your very Customs and Constitutions, and your Laws and Persons will be Venerable, without the grievous Necessity of being Severe; and God will Bless you, and Delight to Dwell among you; and your Land shall be called Hephzibah, and the Name of your Place Jehovah-shammah, the Lord is there. But if any will do Wickedly, if Men will be Foolish and Froward, your Duty to God, and Mercy to the Community, calls for Speedy and Exemplary Justice, that you may put the Evil away from among you, and that Others may Hear and Fear.

4. 3. As we Recommend unto you a Just and Christian Regard to all Gospel-Ordinances; So in Particular, a Religious Observance and Sanctification of the Lord's Day, the Neglect of which will ly heavy on Governours, the Command being peculiarly giv'n to them, as Persons that must Answer for their Children and Servants, and for the Stranger that is within their Gates, as well as for Themselves: If the Sabbath of the Lord be Prophan'd, He will cause your Land to Enjoy its Sabbaths, by Dissolation. But if you Sanctifie the Holy Day of Rest unto the Lord, he will Procure and Maintain Rest for you in your Land.

43. And as we are hopeful of your Just and Faithful Dealings with all Men, whom you may have Occasion to Negotiat, and Trade with; So we Recommend, not only Equity and Justice, but, obliging Kindness towards the Natives; That your People may not only have their Conversation Honest among the Gentiles, but winning and engaging, by Beneficence; That they, Beholding and Enjoying the Benefit of your Good-Works, may Glorifie God in the Day of your Visitation. If you Partake of their Temporal Things, are you not bound to Minister unto Them of your Spiritual Things? Verily, their Debtors you

are; And not only is it the Interest of your Trade, and your Safety, to keep good Measures with them; but 'tis your positive Duty, for which the Lord seems in a peculiar Manner to have Designed your Plantation, as its most glorious End; To Propagat the Light of his Gospel amongst them, and that Heavenly Wisdom which is more Precious than all Riches, and whose Merchandise is better than the Gold of Ophir or Darien: 'Tis by their Consent that God Confirms your Right, therefore Cherish them, as your Brethren, of the same Blood, and Kindred in *Adam*; And Endeavour that you may have them also your Brethren in Christ; not only, let no Stumbling-block, or Occasion of Offence, be laid before them, but all due Encouragement giv'n them, to Embrace the Everlasting Gospel. Let them see what Veneration, and Regard you Pay to your Ministers, as the Servants of the most High God, who must Labour amongst them; and to the Ordinances of Jesus Christ, as the Common Means of your and their Salvation.

It will be needful you Study their Genius Well: For some of these Nations are Naturally more Sincere, and Simple; Others more Subtile, and Treacherous; But, Generally, all of them, Especially in the Beginning, Suspicious and Jealous, Credulous, and Apt to take Ill Impressions, and not Easie to Quit them; Also most Revengful, and Cruel, where they can be Masters, upon the Apprehension of the least Injury done them, to which they have got too many Irritations, by other Europeans, who have come among them. Therefore, there's need, you be, in the midst of them, Wise as Serpents, and Harmless as Doves; You are always to be very Watchful, and upon your Guard, that you may prevent Surprizals, and be able to Defend your Selves, if they should take up any Prejudice, and Irritation, Groundlessly, against you: Be very Concerned to See that none of Yours injure, or Disoblige Them in the least, without Due and Speedy Punishment, and that more severely Inflicted, than for these Injuries done by any of you against another of your Selves. And, beside the Punishment you may find Just, and Necessary to Inflct, be sure any Damage they Sustain be Repay'd, tho' it should be done by the Publick, when the Offending-Party is not able. By any Means, by continual Converse, endeavour to Civilize them, and cultivat any Principles of Natural Understanding, and Reason, they have, which will indeed require great Prudence, and Dexterity in the Management: And when they see Piety, Sincerity and Equity Flourishing among You; it will be the most Effectual, and endearing Tye to Knit them to your Interest.

Be careful in doing Justice betwixt Masters and Servants: Let their Service be a reasonable Service, and Time allow'd them for their Publick and Privat Worshipping of God, for they are your Brethren: And when their Time Expires; let them meet with such Encouragement, as may always Engage them to continue, and Settle among you: whereby, from time to time, you will be Strength'ned, and Increased, and Others Encouraged to come unto You.

If You shall have Servants for Life, or Slaves, of other Nations; (for the *Natives of Darien*, we consider as your Confederats and *Allies*) as we Wish you to be Tender, both of their Souls and Bodies, and to Encourage their Conversion to *Christianity*, by all proper Means; So we do not Urge that their absolute Liberty, and Freedom from their Service, should, as in some other Places, be made the immediat Reward of their Professing to Receive the Gospel: For this hath tempted Masters to withhold them from the Means of their Conversion, lest they should be Indammaged by the Lose of their Service; and hath occasion'd the Slaves to make Counterfeit Professions, to gain their Liberty. But we Recommend a Gentle-Rule, a Mild Treatment, and that full Access and Time be Allow'd for their Christian-Instruction, and let such Rules be agreed on, as that these at least of them, who shal, not only Profess the *Christian-Religion*, but have such a Gospel-Adorning Conversation, as may Recommend them to the Consciences of the Godly, as Christians indeed, may have their full Freedom by such Means, and upon such Terms, as may be Safe and Advantagious, both to their Masters and Them. Immortal Souls are of great Value, and the Blessings of These, who are ready to Perish, are not to be Despiled.

We shall, in the next Place, particularly Address our Selves to You; that are in Military-Charge, and have Command over the Souldiery, whether by Land or Sea: It's on you, *Honoured and Worthy Gentlemen*, that a great Share of the Burden of the Publick Safety lyes; you are, in some Respect, both the Eyes, and Hands of this Infant *Colony*: Many of you have been lately Engaged in a Just and Glorious War, for Retriving, and Defeading the *Protestant-Religion*, the Liberties, and Rights of your Country, under the Conduct of a *Matchless Prince*. And now, when thro' the Blessing of the Lord of Hosts, His and Your Arms have procured an Honourable Peace at Home; You, and others with you, have, with much Bravery, embark'd your Selves in a Great, Generous, and Just Undertaking, in the Remote Parts of the Earth, for Advancing the Honour and Interest of your Native-Country: If in this you acquit your Selves like Men, and *Christians*; Your Fame will be Renown'd both Abroad and at Home. We cannot Foresee what

Opposition you may meet with from the Malice of Men, who Envy the Prosperity of Others, and seek to Enhance to Themselves that Part of the World whether you are Going, which may justly Oblige you a-new to the Trial of your Arms: And in that Case, you are Called to Use your Valour, and Courage, but not to Lean unto it, nor Trust in the Arm of Flesh. Seek to have the Lord Going before you, and the God of Israel to be your Reerward. And Remember what is giv'n in Charge to the Armies of Israel, when the Host goeth forth against thine Enemies, then keep Thee from every wicked Thing, lest the Lord, seeing Wickedness, and Prophanity in your Camp, be provok'd to Turn away from you. How Reproachful would it Prove to the Profession of Christianity, if, by the lewd Practice of any among you, the *Pagan*-Nations should have Ground to Apprehend, that you Entertain that Hellish, and false Maxime of the Atheistical Debauchees of this Age, which ev'n the Refined Heathen Abhor, That 'tis a Point of Gallantry, and a necessary Qualification in a Souldier, to cast off all Thoughts of God, of his own Soul, of Heav'en, and Hell; As if These, who are continually Conversant in the Jaws of Death, were less Concerned, than Others, to Mind their Future State; or that Wicked, and Profligat Men, could Adventure to Encounter with Death, which to Them is a King of Terrors, with that Boldness and fixed Resolution, in Lawful and Allowable War, that is to be found with the Upright Man, who can encourage Himself with the Thoughts of This, That his Latter-end will be Peace? Do not *Pagan*, as well as *Christian*, Histories, furnish sufficient Instances of the Noblest Hero's, and bravest Commanders, who were Themselves Patterns of Virtue, and a Terror to the Vicious, and Prophane? And, sure, the most Eminent of Saints, Recorded in the Holy Scriptures, have been most Courageous Warriours, and the Best of Souldiers. Let Us therefore earnestly Intreat, and Obtest You, who are Commanders and Officers, to go before your Souldiers, in all Manner of Holy Conversation. The Characters you bear, by the Stations you are plac'd in, the Respect you owe to the Honour, Credit, and Welfare of your Native-Country, and that New Part of it, the *Colony* you are now Going to, your own Temporal, as well as Spiritual, Interest, and the Happiness of These under your Charge, do all call aloud on you; to Use your outmost Endeavours, for Curbing, by Exemplary Punishment, and Marks of Disgrace, in any of your Souldiers, who may be Guilty of them, the Horrid Wickedness of prophane Swearing, Uncleanliness, Drunkenness, Prophaning the Lord's Day, Neglect of Gospel-Ordinances, Falshood, Treachery, Oppression, and Idleness the Mother of All Wickedness, and other Enormities; the Suppressing of all which

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Which we have already Recommended to the Honourable-Council of the Colony: nor shall we need to Enforce this on you, so far as your Stations call for it, with any other Arguments than what We have Offered to Them, Which we Intreat you Seriously to Mind. And, for the Encouragement of all under your Command to Carry, as becometh Christian-Soldiers, in the Way of Well-doing: Let their due Allowance be Punctually giv'n Them; Preferment, and Reward, Impartially, and Readily Bestow'd on the best Deserving of Them: That Wickedness being Disgrac'd, and Banished; Piety Encouraged and Flourishing in your Camp; you may have Confidence toward God, that the Lord will be your Protection, and will Delight to go Forth in the Midst of You.

Tho' much of what We have Written be Address'd, Principally, to the Gouvernours and Magistrats of the Plantation, and Others bearing Office among you; Yet it doth likeways Concern every one of You, Our Beloved Friends, and Dear Country-men, for whom the Desire of our Souls, and Prayer to God is, that you may be Saved, that God may Countenance, and Bless your Undertakings, and Crown Them with Success, that His Almighty Power may be a Wall of Fire about You; But, above all, that his Gracious Presence, in his Ordinances, may be the Glory in the midst of you; and that your Souls may Prosper until you be Transplanted into the better Mansions above, that Kingdom which is beyond the Injuries of envious Enemies, a Kingdom that cannot be Shaken, and whence you shall go forth no more.

We have found it Necessary, from a sense of our Duty before God, and our tender Regard, both to your Souls, and your outward Welfare, to lay before your Gouvernours the indispensible Obligations of their Station, as Christian-Magistrats, to Set up, and Maintain a Holy, Righteous-Government over you, and to Suppress, and Punish all Vice, with the Greatest, and most Impartial Severity. As this is absolutely Requisit to the very Civil Subsistence of your Colony, so we hope it will not be grievous to any of you, and that there is not one Soul so Degenerous, and Dissolute in your Society, as, but to Wish for a Connivance to any Immoral or Prophane Practice: And, if there be, such a Person is a Burden and Plague to the Rest, that deserves to be cut off, lest the Body be Infected, and the heavy Judgements of God be pull'd down on the Community. We are, therefore, Confident that you will Obey, not only for Fear, but, for Conscience Sake, and for your own Interest; That you will Pay all Submission and dutiful Deference to your Rulers; That you will, with Patience, and Contentment, bear the Toils and Fatigues of your first Settlement, not Mur-

nsuring, for what Uneasiness may as yet be in your Circumstances; but waiting upon the Land, in an Humble, and diligent Application to your present Work, till he in his infinit Mercy, give you a confirmed Rest in the Lord: For, tho' you do not find such Fruits attending your present Labours, as may Answer all the Expectations you had; Yet patience, Diligence, and Industry will overcome your first Difficulties, and thro' the Blessing of God, you shall find the Promise made out to you, That the Hand of the Diligent maketh Rich.

And We Obtest You, by the Mercies of God, in Jesus Christ our Saviour, that in your several Stations, you Walk worthy of the Lord, unto all Well-pleasing; that you give no Offence to the Gentiles, but be exceeding Wary and Tender of whatever may Scar them from Christianity, or doing any Thing unbecoming the Church, and Members of Christ; That you be Blameless and Harmless, the Sons of God, without Rebuke, shining as Lights in the World; That you be Diligent and Faithful, Sober and Loving, among your Selves; and Obsequious to them that are over you, whether in Matters Religious or Civil; And that you be every one Exemplary, Encouraging, and Edifying to one another, in Godliness, and in whatever Tends to Common-good.

Finally, Brethren, whatsoever things are True, whatsoever things are Honest, whatsoever things are Just, whatsoever things are Pure, whatsoever things are Lovel, whatsoever things are of good Report, if there be any Virtue, and if there be any Praise, think on these Things.

And, particularly, We Recommend unto You, Frequentey and Fer-vency in Prayer, both a-part, and in Christian-Societies, or Fellowships together. 'Tis God most High, who performeth all Things for You, on whom you must Depend, for all your Mercies, and all your Hopes: And therefore, from the uttermost Ends of the Earth, lift up your Cry unto Him, who is the Hearer of Prayer, and you shall not seek his Face in Vain.

That we be not further Tedious to you, hoping, our Dear Brethren, the Ministers we have sent to Labour among you, in the Work of the Lord, shall be Furnished by Their Great Master, so as to afford you, from his Holy Word, such Instructions and Directions, from time to time, as your Case shall require, to whom we intreat you to Hearken; that you may be mutually Encouraging to one another in the Lord your God: We only Repeat thele Memorable Words, which we Wish may be indelibly Engraven on your Hearts, *The Lord is with You, while You 2 Chron 13:18 are with Him; and if you seek him, he will be found of you: but if you forsake him, he will forsake you;* And all your forward Expectations, and blooming Hopes shall be Blasted and Wither, and your Colony laid Desolate,

Desolate, your Names, instead of Honour and Renown, shall be branded with Infamy, Hissing and Scorn; and your Blessings turn'd unto Curses; and the Lord shall Pluck you up, and not Plant you, *and shall separate you unto Evil*, after he had said, he would do you Good.

¶. 21. But, *Beloved Brethren*, We are perswaded better Things of You, and Things that accompany Salvation, tho' for your Warning, we thus Write; And that the Lord will Preserve you stedfast in Holiness, and Faith; and will Plant you in that Place destinat'd for you, and make you a Name of Joy, and Renown among the Nations.

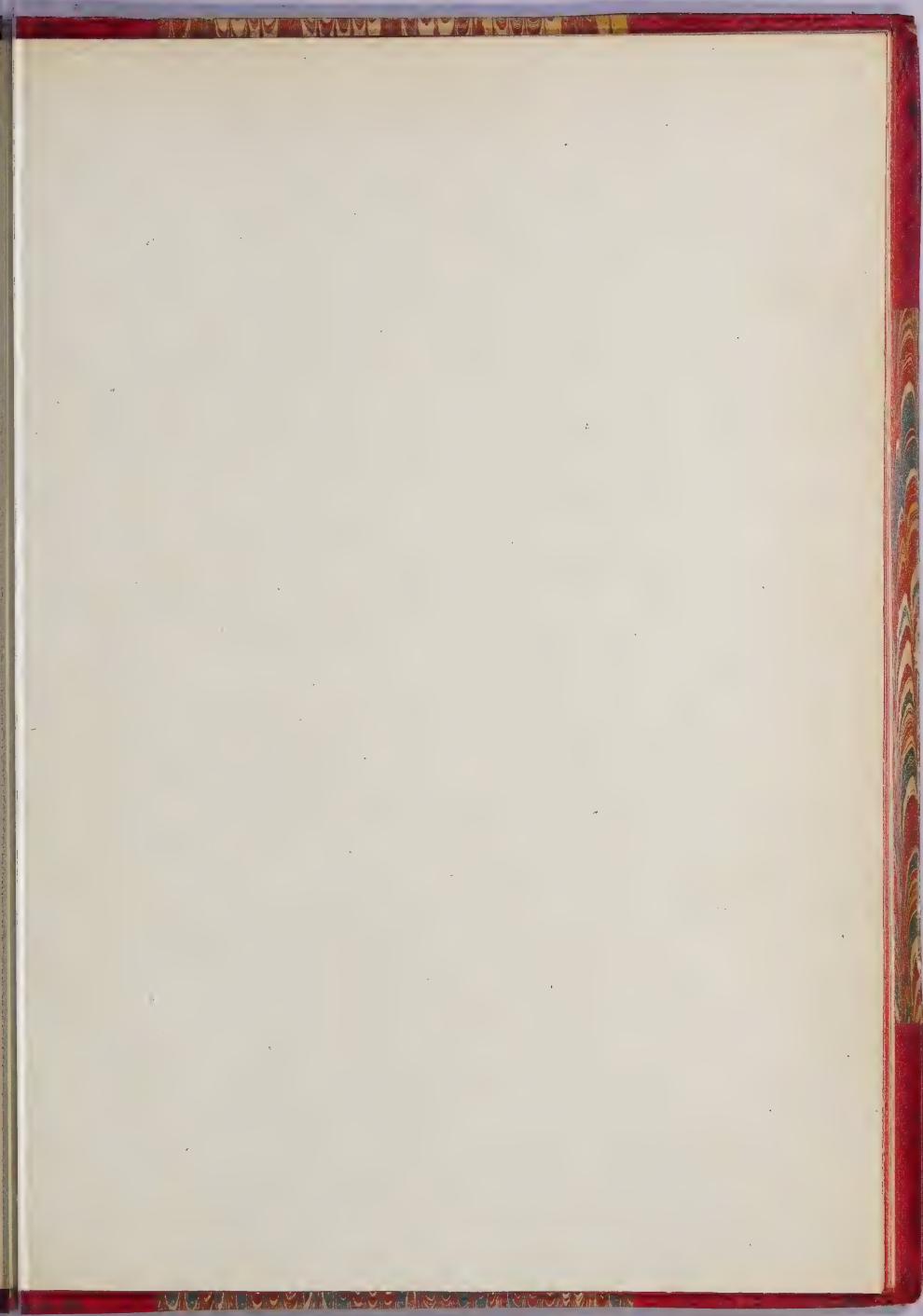
Now, to Conclude, We Recommend these few Words of Exhortation, proceeding from a most Tender, and Affectionate Concern, for your Good, to your most Serious Consideration, and to the Blessing of God. To Him we Recommend all of you, and to the Word of His Grace, which is able to Build you up, and to give you an Inheritance among them that are Sanctified, thro' Faith that is in Christ; *To whom be Glory, For Ever and Ever.* Amen.

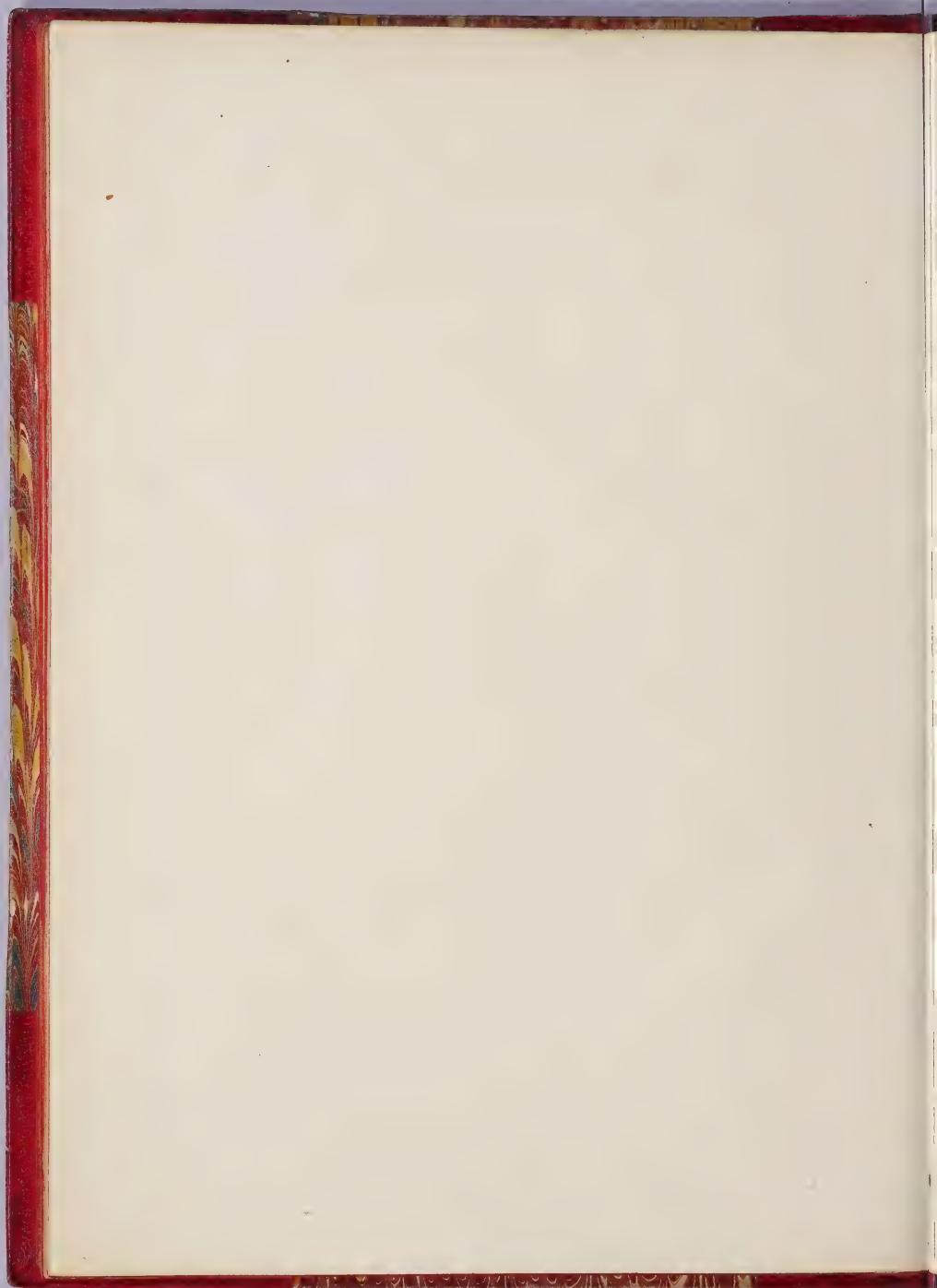
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